

ABSTRACT

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The present invention relates to an improved retail process and apparatuses for putting customized marking devices, commonly called rubber stamps, in the hands of a customer in a convenient period of time such as five minutes after data entry. Prior art processes make stamps in a batch mode, generally forming text on a separate rubber sheet, cutting the sheet, and adhering individual rubber stamps to stamp mounts taken from inventory. The instant process forms text and/or graphics on stamp mounts that are complete except for the marking data on the rubber and an index card. A special purpose one-stamp-at-a-time laser engraver can be used with the process. As an alternative, a multiple cavity fixture can be used in conjunction with existing laser engravers. A further alternative uses a photopolymer method of producing single stamps. In addition to a convenient time to fill an order for a customer, the instant process is directed toward reducing the number of manual steps and errors resulting from the prior art processes.